



APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE DEMOCRATS

Rep. David Obey, Ranking Member • 1016 Longworth HOB • (202) 225-3481

For Immediate Release:

Contact:

Kirstin Brost
202-225-3481

Twenty Reasons Cutting \$1.6 billion from Labor, Health, Human Services and Education is a Bad Idea

WASHINGTON – On Thursday, the House of Representatives will consider the fiscal year 2006 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill. With a total of \$1.6 billion in cuts, the bill puts America's commitment to opportunity on the chopping block.

Here are just 20 of the most offensive cuts in the Republican bill:

1. With a record 55 million children in public schools and state budgets stretched thin, **No Child Left Behind funding is cut by \$806 million**, leaving 3.1 million low-income children behind.
2. Base funding for the **Corporation for Public Broadcasting is cut by 25 percent, or \$100 million** in 2006. Added to this burden, the bill does not provide **\$82 million needed for satellite upgrades and to help local PBS stations convert to digital** as required by the FCC.
3. The International Labor Affairs Bureau will have a hard time **protecting American workers from being undercut by child and slave labor abroad after being cut by \$81 million or 87 percent**.
4. 7.6 million Americans are out of work, but they won't get help finding a job from the **Employment Service because it is cut \$116 million or 14 percent**.
5. Quality pre-natal care and health care services for low-income mothers and infants would seem to be something everyone can support, but the bill cuts **the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant by \$24 million, and the Healthy Start program targeted to communities with high infant mortality by \$5 million**.
6. 2.9 million young adults out of school and living in poverty will have fewer places to turn for help when **Job Corps and other successful job training programs are cut by \$96 million**, eliminating help for 21,500 at-risk youth.
7. Energy prices are skyrocketing, five million households rely on the Low- Income Energy Assistance Program to keep their families warm in the winter, but this **program to help families pay heating bills is cut by \$198 million or 9 percent**.
8. In over 96 percent of counties, **Community Services Block Grants provide housing, childcare and emergency food assistance to poor Americans** with nowhere else to turn. But the six million families that rely on these services will see their funding **cut in half to \$320 million**.

9. The bill **eliminates the \$100 million Department of Health and Human Services' contribution to the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis.**
10. Access to healthcare is difficult in many communities, but **training grants for healthcare professionals are cut \$252 million or 84 percent.** Eliminated are grants to 47 Geriatric Education Centers, Area Health Education Centers in 46 States, and assistance for over 10,000 high school and college students and 20,000 medical students and residents.
11. In rural communities it can be hard to find a doctor and emergency rooms can be dangerously far away. The bill cuts **rural health care and emergency medical services by \$44 million or 41 percent.** The number of communities that get grants under the Rural Health Outreach Program would drop from more than 150 to less than 60, no new grants would be made, and ongoing grants would have their funding cut by about 45 percent.
12. 45 million Americans without health insurance get more bad news with the decision to **eliminate the Healthy Communities Access Program (\$83 million) and state planning grants to improve health care coverage (\$11 million).** Roughly 70 communities will lose existing HCAP grants, and another 35 new grants will not be made.
13. **New York State workers and volunteers injured in the September 11th recovery efforts will lose \$120 million** promised by the President.
14. The threat of terrorism requires improving the preparedness of hospitals and health departments to deal with bio-terrorist threats or naturally occurring epidemics. The bill **cuts public health and hospital preparedness grants by \$94 million.**
15. In an age where being tech-savvy is a necessity not a privilege, the digital divide just got bigger as the bill **cuts the Education Technology Program by \$196 million or 40 percent.**
16. The Safe and Drug Free Schools program to **keep kids off drugs and alcohol is cut by \$37 million** or nine percent.
17. **The Arts Education program (\$36 million) and the Foreign Language program (\$18 million) are completely eliminated.** In 2004, 254,000 disabled children participated in local arts programs supported through the Arts Education program.
18. Preventive Health Block Grants to state health departments help address critical public health problems. The bill provides less for **responding to disease outbreaks, immunizing children, and improving care for people with chronic diseases, when it cuts these grants by \$31 million or 24 percent.**
19. The President's signature Community College Initiative is **cut in half to \$125 million, so 100,000 people won't be able to learn marketable skills for jobs** in health care and other high growth industries.
20. Those who don't know history are doomed to repeat it. Maybe it was some of those who thought it was a good idea to cut the primary program to help **teachers improve instruction in American history by \$69 million or 58 percent.**